

Parks and Play Grounds-1938

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 14, 1938

FUNDS ARE ASKED FOR NEGRO PARKS

Improvements in a Negro park at Omega Street and Theta Avenue and at a park at East Thomas were asked by a group representing the Alabama State Federation of Colored Civic Leagues at the meeting of the Park Board yesterday.

The group asked that an area 100 feet square in the park be lighted with four flood lights for night games, that a platform be built in the park and that water and a rest room be provided at a nearby community center. Four or five additional workers were asked.

The group asked for a baseball diamond at the East Thomas playground. They also asked water, lights and two additional workers.

The Park Board voted to match funds raised by Negroes up to \$50 to provide balls, bats and other necessities for a Negro baseball league this summer. The requests made by the committee will be investigated, board members said.

Birmingham, Ala. Advertiser
May 4, 1938

Playgrounds For Negroes

Dr. A. M. Freeman, president of the Birmingham Protestant Pastor Union, has asked ministers in the city to give the use of its building for a community center to help get playgrounds for Negro children in several sections of the city. He has suggested that they should take the lead in efforts to get space allotted for Negro children who soon will be out of school and who should have some place for wholesome, healthy recreation.

Dr. Freeman's suggestion is deserving of support from every white citizen in Birmingham who would help improve conditions in this city and who realizes that playgrounds, adequately supervised, are most helpful in building the best future citizens.

George Stuart, Jr., while a member of the Jefferson County solicitor's staff, made a thorough survey of the effects of playgrounds as a deterrent to crime. He found that in neighborhoods where supervised playgrounds were maintained child delinquency was at the lowest ebb.

Playgrounds need not be expensive. The physical equipment necessary to give children a positive and athletic type of games. Under the leadership of Frank Strickland, Children's tastes in entertainment are simple. Wholesome play, healthful exercise and intelligent leadership are the chief requirements for a successful playground.

In sections of Birmingham where

adequate playgrounds are not yet furnished for Negro children, some means should be provided to take the children off the streets and from the alleys. Supervised playgrounds are the answer.

Talladega, Ala. Daily Home
May 20, 1938

WPA RECREATIONAL

PROGRAM FOR NEGROES

Since the closing of school the activities are increasing rapidly in number. Approximately 300 are touched daily by the activities.

For the first time in the history of Talladega, the Negro citizens are enthusiastic about all who have helped to make joying a wholesale recreational program. The movement for community cooperation and welfare is under the auspices of the College-Community Extension. The first playground was opened Dec. 6, 1937. It was given by Talladega College and is just across from the Westside School. The equipment was given by interested white and Negro citizens. It has well served the children during school session. Plans are on way to further develop the playground in beauty and usefulness.

The First Congressional Church has given the use of its building for a community center. There the various club work is carried on; handicraft, sewing, gardening, home-work, leisure time, health, flower, beautification and music. Volunteer workers from the college and the community serve as leaders.

The Kindergarten Recreation Project is under the fine leadership of Odean Dixon, WPA worker. Daily a large number of children find themselves at the community house to enjoy the free play, organized play, story-hour and music. They have had several hikes to places of interest in the neighborhood. Friday they hiked to the top of College Hill where they enjoyed a grand picnic planned for them by their leader.

Each afternoon the boys and men gather in the college park for competitive and athletic type of games. Under the leadership of Frank Strickland, WPA worker, they are having plenty of fun. On Saturday his boys in their first game, defeated the Kindergarten team 11-9. More than 100 spectators witnessed the thrilling baseball game.

Alabama

Club, Business and Professional Women's Club, American Red Cross, Kiwanis Club, Y. W. C. A., Junior League, and American Legion Auxiliary.

Mrs. John Orme, supervisor of the recreation department, predicted that the use of playgrounds for organized play would be "of great advantage to the children of Montgomery."

The parks where white children will be directed in play and furnished equipment were possible are Yancey Park, Oak Park, Hamner Hall Park, Kiwanis Park, Perry Street Park, Herron Street Park, Chilton School Grounds, Chisholm Park, Children's Home, and Masonic Home.

Seven parks are under supervision for Negro children: Loveless School grounds; Booker Washington School grounds, Billingslea School grounds, Hale School grounds, Day Street Playground No. 1, Day Street Playground No. 2, and Oak and Early playground.

A staff of 26 white workers and 16 negro workers are to direct the various phases of recreation at the parks.

Gadsden, Ala. Times

June 6, 1938

PLAYGROUNDS FOR NEGROES PLANNED

A program of mass games, individual activities, and team competition followed by a community night will be held at all parks and playgrounds today inaugurating the third summer of play direction by the Citizen's Recreation Council. Play leaders will be at each park to direct the play.

The program of play direction was designed to help the several thousand school children spend their leisure hours during the summer, Sol Brinsford, chairman of the committee, explained. "Play leaders help the children find wholesome pleasure in an organized play which has constructive character building effects," he said.

The program to be followed at the parks today will begin with registration of all participants and division into color teams. Instruction will be given for the mass games and then the play will be directed to individual activities. Original stunts will be organized by the players themselves. Musical games will be arranged to take place just before the relay races and the team competitions in softball and tennis. The community night for everyone will begin at 8. The membership of the recreation council is drawn from cooperating civic clubs and organizations. They are the P. T. A., Ridge Crest Garden

All persons interested in forming a civic league for the advancement of young colored people of Gadsden have been invited

to meet at the Royal Palm Tuesday night at 8:30, Pauline Cain

announced today.

Plans for establishing a playground will be discussed.

Negro Library In City

A Public Swimming Pool And Play Center For Negroes

A happy instance of how the white and the colored people of Anniston cooperate in civic undertakings comes to light in the announcement that the long sought Negro library will officially open its doors during the first week of August. The library a month ago was only a movement by the Philathea Sunday School Class of the First Methodist Church, inspired by the unfailing hope of a former teacher, the late Mrs. Emmett Ledbetter. Today, owing to contributions from both

A few days ago Joe Young, a Negro, was drowned in the Cahaba River, where, with several companions, he had gone swimming. This tragedy was keenly felt among employees of *The News-Age-Herald*, for Joe Young was a janitor in this organization. He was well liked, for Joe was a capable, reliable worker and a good man.

Joe was said to be a good swimmer, but in some way he got into difficulties in the

The colored people of the city have donated treacherous stream, as many another person the basement of the Congregational Methodist has. Rivers are not the safest places for Church on West Fifteenth Street, and have done swimming, with their strong currents and much already to prepare these quarters in a suitable manner for the library layout. A local spots which have been improved for public Negro woman, Vester Stevens, has volunteered to bathing and have the protection of life-guard, and, as far as we know, with-guards. Yet Negroes around Birmingham, out the slightest idea of receiving any salary. On the other hand, the white people have done much to make the library possible. The City Council has voted a \$10 a month appropriation to help Negroes to meet the expenses of the new library. Following a tea given by the Philathea Class several weeks ago over 500 books were contributed to the movement, and at the moment WPA workers are busy putting these books in shape for library usage.

idea then unbacked by funds or books. This committee, composed of Mrs. Ernest Williams, chairwoman, Mrs. Fitzpatrick Booth, Philathea Class president, and Mrs. Fred Williams, has been defatigable in its persistence toward the success of the library movement.

Of the matters that remain for Anniston people to do to insure further success for the local Negro library, undoubtedly the major one is a greater contribution of books. A total of 500 books, while an auspicious beginning, is by no means sufficiently large to make the library anything but a

keleton of what it must be if it is to permeate the colored population with virility and power. Surely, several times 500 books lie at this moment unused in attics and basements of Anniston homes. Nor can lack of transportation be an excuse for failure to contribute them, since Miss Mildred Goodrich herself has announced that she will guarantee their collection if she is notified. The Anniston Star urges all people in the city to make an effort toward insuring the success of the colored library.

to the question of recreational facilities for Negroes, and more than once have written editorials in that connection. After all, Negroes enjoy so few privileges and need so many things that it is hard to think of all their needs.

Certainly, however, on the score of recreational facilities for Negroes, a public swimming pool for them would be one of the most desirable accommodations. There are two or three playgrounds in the city set aside for the use of Negroes, though with possibly one exception they are not improved playgrounds. But nowhere is there a public swimming pool for their use.

Anyone who will think about this question a little will realize that it is important from a sociological standpoint as well as from the standpoint of pleasure to Negroes. For it is well known that recreational facilities help a great deal to prevent tendencies toward mischief and crime, particularly among children. That fact has been recognized in

the establishment of playgrounds and swimming pools for the white population. The need for such facilities is no less for the Negro population, and the good they would do would be just as great.

While we were thinking of the desirability of a Negro public swimming pool, there came to our notice, by coincidence, accounts as evidence that there is something inherent of a movement in that very direction in an other Southern city, Richmond. Since, as we learned, the matter had been up for discussion in Richmond for many years, it is possible that Birmingham might be interested in Richmond's experience with it.

The Richmond Common Council only last Monday voted, by 18 to 1, to set aside an 18-acre tract for a Negro swimming pool and recreation center; and the swimming pool is the most important item in the plans.

The Richmond newspapers heartily favor the plan. Commenting on it before the Common Council acted, *The News Leader*, anticipating a favorable vote, said: "We hope that these optimistic predictions will be borne out and that the action of Common Council to-night will be unanimous. It will be if it conforms to the wishes of an indisputable majority of Richmonders. Recent weeks have witnessed that rare phenomenon in city life the crystallization of a positive sentiment for an improvement that had been opposed by a minority. As a rule, the organized minority can prevail. This time, the majority, without organization, became vocal and insistent."

The News Leader thought that this was not solely because of the frequent appeals of the Juvenile Court and the welfare agencies for a playground that would keep Negro boys and girls off the street and out of the way of temptation, or because of "humiliation over long and inconsiderate delays in providing a swimming pool." Instead, the paper was happy to think that the community's sense of justice was prevailing. "The average high-minded Richmonder," it said, "has seen the happy throng in Shields Lake and at the Byrd Park Field, and then he has looked at the Negro children who crowd narrow streets and shabby, vacant lots, and he has said to himself, 'How can we have peace between the races; how can we pretend to justice, when we do so much for the white children and do nothing for Negro boys and girls who desire and need recreation precisely as our children?' This, it seems to us, is the state of mind to which Richmond has come. If the council recognizes it tonight, this will be an historic date in race relationship. From justice comes peace. How else can it come?"

After the council's action, *The News Leader* said: "Common Council deserves the thanks of a grateful city today....

"This playground measure was the most important paper that has been before the council for many years."

The Times-Dispatch, viewing the action as a step toward better citizenship, said:

"Those who are inclined to stress the high criminal rate among Negroes, and to cite it as evidence that there is something inherently anti-social about the race, fail to consider that the whites would have a similar record if they enjoyed as few recreational outlets. No people can be expected to remain relatively free from crime as long as thousands of its citizens are crowded into unsanitary living quarters and given only back alleys and unpaved streets to play in."

The Times-Dispatch believes the project will "pay dividends in lower criminal costs, as well as in the more intangible realm where a healthier and better-trained Negro citizenship dwells."

Birmingham needs the same sort of thing. Whether financial conditions now would permit the city to embark on such a project is a question, though the possible availability of PWA funds for such a purpose might be considered. Whether we can do such a thing now or not, Birmingham should begin now to plan for an adequate swimming pool and recreation center for Negroes.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 28, 1938

Swimming Pool And Play Center For Negroes

Attention is invited to a fine letter appearing in the "Voice of the People" column on this page from Mr. E. M. Elliott

who writes with regard to the suggestion recently made in these columns for a public swimming pool and play center for the Negroes of Birmingham. Mr. Elliott heartily approves. He thinks the suggestion merits a more hearty response" than he has seen in the "Voice of the People." As for the bars, ping pong sets and many other recreational facilities are in this subject, both from white persons and available, and under the supervision of Negroes, and while they have not been published in full, excerpts from some of Weiss, recreation leaders, who were quoted in an editorial.

Mr. Elliott's response is especially heartening. He is well known as a citizen who

has been an outstanding public benefactor of Birmingham. He says that before his financial reverses in the depression, it was his purpose to sponsor just such a recreational project for Negroes. Even now he is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, says: "In my limited way the project may count upon my hearty cooperation."

There must be many men like Mr. Elliott in Birmingham who would cooperate in a plan to provide a swimming pool and play center for Negroes. Their means and time and effort would be well spent if they did. Few public benefactions would pay greater dividends than this one would in terms of better citizenship, happier lives for a large element of our population, and stronger friendship between the races. If recreational facilities are essential to the social welfare of white people, they are no less essential in the case of Negroes.

Demopolis, Ala., Times
August 25, 1938

Recreation Park For Negroes Now Enjoyed By Many

A project started more than a year ago by Mrs. Sallie Will Dufield, recreation supervisor of Marengo County, and carried on through the efforts of the colored recreation council of Demopolis, composed of Allen Lane, Lettie Weiss, Juanita Coleman, Alfred Black and Maud Hayden, with the assistance of Irving Bell, Lillian

Phillips, the City of Demopolis and many others, is at last completed and is now being patronized by many colored citizens of Demopolis.

Located on the site of the old Black Belt School, on East Washington Street, the park is on the property owned by the negroes of Demopolis, bequeathed to them a more hearty response" than he has seen in the "Voice of the People." As for the bars, ping pong sets and many other recreational facilities are in this subject, both from white persons and available, and under the supervision of Weiss, recreation leaders, who were quoted in an editorial.

supervise play, already the

negroes are taking advantage of this park.

Opening exercises were held last Monday night, when many white visitors were present to hear the purpose to sponsor just such a recreational project for Negroes. Even now he is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, says: "In my limited way the project may count upon my hearty cooperation."

agent for negroes of Marengo, made a splendid talk. A feature

given by several church choirs, under the direction of Maud Hayden.

The program concluded with

boxing matches, refereed by Lewis

Hill.

Birmingham, Ala. News
September 5, 1938

Voice of the People

Expressions from readers upon topics of current or general interest are welcomed. Writing should be on one side of the paper only and should not exceed 300 words. Anonymous communications will not be printed and letters unaccompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned. The News reserves the right to shorten letters of excessive length.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR NEGROES

To the Editor The News:

We, the Negro citizens of Ensley, through the Ensley Civic League, take this means of expressing our appreciation for the wonderful editorial appearing in The Birmingham News Aug. 6, "A Public Swimming Pool and Play Center for Negroes." We appreciated very much the stand taken by your great paper on a much-needed project such as this one and many other editorials that have appeared from time to time on recreational facilities for Negroes.

A public swimming pool and play center for Negroes would be one of the greatest steps that could be made in the direction of better racial relationship in our great city. We are aware of

Alabama.

the fact, as it was stated in the editorial, that we Negroes enjoy so few privileges and need so many things that it is hard for anyone who is not in sympathy with the Negro to think of all of his needs. After all, it takes love, necessity or death to make the classes who are living above want, and have at their command the

recreational and civic facilities that are necessary for their pleasure and health, to see and sympathize with the masses who are destitute of the recreational facilities that are essential to good health and good citizenship, especially

The tract is located on the southern shore of the proposed Chickamauga Lake about eight miles from Chattanooga near the village of Bartlebaugh. The TVA contributes the use of the land on certain stated conditions, subject to requirements for service purposes, for a 15-year period, the lease being automatically renewable. Construction will be done by CCC workers under supervision of the National Park Service.

In addition to lack of a public swimming pool and recreational facilities for Negroes there are many other things which make a high contribution to the high death rate among Negroes. Here we might mention a few: Unimproved streets, poor drainage and sanitary sewerage, street lights, and housing conditions in Negro sections in general.

It is true that the death rate among Negroes is very high. The same would be true of any other people if they had to live under similar conditions. We realize that there is too much killing among ourselves. We also realize that overcrowded housing conditions in Negro sections and unimproved streets with improper lighting facilities make a hotbed for crime; not only crime committed by the Negro himself, but because of such environments people who are of a criminal nature, whether they be Negroes or some other people, will seek these places to commit crimes themselves, or to plant the seed of discord among Negroes to the extent that it will contribute largely to their homicidal death rate. In other words, to decrease these conditions it simply means to decrease the death rate among Negroes.

We believe that when it comes to contagious diseases, such as smallpox, typhoid fever and tuberculosis, it is practically impossible for the Negro to be immune from them, being in such close contact and having so many things in common that it is possible for such disease germs to be carried from one house to the other.

We have from time to time called the attention of the City Commission to some of these conditions. Sometimes we have gotten results, but in most cases we believe that the delay has been too long, especially on things that are detrimental to good health.

The accomplishment of the things mentioned in this letter are some of the things that the Civic League has for its goal. We believe that they are essential to good health and good citizenship. Therefore we would appreciate very much if you think well of them to advocate them from time to time in your great paper.

D. Scurlark, President.

PARKS AND PLAY GROUNDS- 1938

FLORIDA

Miami, Fla. Herald
December 10, 1938

Beach For Colored Folks

Editor The Herald: In this land where all men are supposed to be born "free and equal" and where, in America's Winter Playground the people of all other races, many of them extremely uncouth and considered very undesirable, can come down here to enjoy privileges for health and pleasure, it is an outrage that the colored people must ride all the way to Fort Lauderdale, 30 miles, to bathe on a beach. Few of them can go and have to be content with the bath tub or little or no bathing at all. They need to keep clean and have pleasure the same as the rest of us. They reside here the year around and most of them work hard for what little they get.

Robert Ripley, in his "Believe It Or Not" nation-wide broadcasts has commented on the incredulous, un-American restrictions of the colored people here. A bathing beach of only a few hundred feet could easily be provided, north or south of Miami Beach. We "white folks" owe it to ourselves to help the 55,000 colored people living in our midst to improve and progress for health and cleanliness as much as for the ample provision for compulsory education in colored public schools.

WARDE TRAVER,
Miami Beach.

South Side are living elsewhere the day." than in the area to be affected.

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Hon. Mayor Vernon Agee and the City Councilmen of the city of St. Petersburg be earnestly petitioned not to permit the erection of a negro bath house on the South Mole or the erection of buildings or extension of ball parks in our Waterfront Park."

William Knighton, president of the Improvement Association, referred to the question as an "old fight of property owners of the South Side." He led with, "All want to give them (the negroes) something they do not want themselves. What generous givers are these who want to do things for the negroes."

He urged a place on the Gulf or Boca Ciega Bay be provided for negro bathing.

On the South Side Committee were Mrs. M. P. Hoback, Mrs. Clara Fulmer and Mrs. J. M. Biser. The president urged them to make "every effort" to settle the matter peaceably and to see that negroes get "some place out on the Gulf beach" where they can swim.

St. Petersburg, Fla. Times

August 1, 1938

HAMILTON URGES

ESTABLISHMENT SWIM POOL FOR NEGRO BEACH NEGROES DONE

Flays 'Prejudices' BY LABOR DAY at Union Services

Flaying "racial prejudices that are tearing the world today," the Rev. J. Wallace Hamilton, speaking at Union Church services last night, pleaded not for equality but for "simple justice" when he urged Christian people to give negroes a bathing beach.

"With 45 miles of beach, surely we can find some place for the 11,000 negroes in our city," he said, adding that "some of the opposition comes from people in the Church."

Services last night were held in First Methodist Church instead of Williams Park and most of the downstairs pews were filled to capacity. The Rev. Mr. Hamilton, pastor of Pasadena Community Church, referred to the negro and other current questions because the Bible character, Nicodemus, who entered into his sermon "was our con-

temporary and, like ourselves, seeking solutions to problems of afford employment for young men of 18 to 25 years old during

the past two years. The first was to be solved better with Christian idealism, he inferred, as he preached against the "paganism" arising in our modern lives." He tried to visualize God in our city life, asking if God would symbolize love if He sat on the school board and apportioned less

money for negro than for white education; if He led in publicing the building air tight and comfortable both in winter and summer. The building is of cypress logs taken from swamps by local negro boys. Crocks between the

he emphasized, cannot follow

Christ with prejudice in their Hill state curb market only a few

he added, "social months ago from materials brought

only by people with the King-Ocala.

While it is a temporary

building it has served amply

for growers throughout

for horseshoes, croquet and diamond

secretary, presided last night and this section to dispose of their

music was furnished by Childs products each Tuesday, Thursday

Park Methodist Church under and Saturday. By another year a

Mrs. W. A. Moser's direction and substantial market building, large-

with Steele W. Roberts at the piano. Ushers were from the Y. M. C. A.

Services will be held again next Sunday night under the auspices of the Ministerial Association. They will be held in

Williams Park unless inclement weather, as last night, forces

a change to First Methodist Church, South.

Daytona Beach, Fla. News

August 28, 1938

Daytona Beach, Fla. News

September 5, 1938

NEGROES AT LAST HAVE REAL PLACE TO GO SWIMMING

For the first time in the city's history, negroes today had a real place to go swimming.

Seven tons of steel for reinforcements and more than 27 tons of cement were required for this

pool, which is 30 feet wide and 60

feet long. An addition of six feet to the west has been made for

small children to wade in. Water

in it will not be over 18 inches

deep. The main pool is four feet

above the general level of the

ground in that section to secure

swimming was not to be allowed un-

proper drainage. It provides for

nine and a half feet of water in day

one end and three feet at the

other. Near the top of the pool is

a scum gutter extending along all

the sides as an overflow. Water

for various fresh water canals or ponds

the pool is from a large in-

dent well driven nearby and the remote sections of the beach. An-

water runs through a filter to other new pool is to be constructed

soften it to some extent.

By means of drains the pool can

be emptied and cleaned on short

notice. As soon as it is ready for

use it will be available to all

negroes of the community free of

charge and an experienced negro

lifeguard will be on duty.

A nine foot concrete walk has

been laid on all sides of the pool

and two flights of concrete steps

are being made. At the foot of

one will be an eight inch medicated

foot pool which bathers will be re-

quired to pass through before and

after swimming to prevent spread

of athlete's foot. Showers are be-

ing provided along the north side

near the entrance.

Recently the NYA has added a

recreation hall just in front of the

pool where gym work and other forms of exercises are carried on from time to time.

Delray Beach, Fla. News

August 26, 1938

Sum of \$7,500

For Negro Park

The negro recreational park project

has been approved at the Jacksonville

office of the WPA, Howard Cromer

city engineer, reported yesterday. The

application for the park has already

been forwarded to Washington, where

it awaits final approval.

The application, which is for \$7,500

includes plans for the erection of a

log shelter, the laying of two tennis

court, shuffle boards and a croquet

court.

The entire grounds will be en-

closed in a steel wire fence.

The grounds on Central Avenue

have been operated as a colored

recreation park for the past two

years without many facilities.

Daytona Beach, Fla. News

November 18, 1938

ANOTHER SWIMMING

POOL FOR NEGROES

Work has been started by the

NYA on another new swimming pool

for negroes, City Engineer W. J.

Wier said today. This one will be

at the Cypress street negro recrea-

tion park. One already completed

is at the Campbell street park.

The second pool will be 80 by 40

feet with a six-foot wading pool at

the shallow end. The first one was

only 60 by 25 and often is over-

crowded.

Artesian water will fill the Cyp-

ress street pool with 143,286 gallons

of water which will be chlorinated

as it enters the pool. Little excava-

tion will be required for this pool

as it is to be located in an old

marl pit. It will drain into Halifax

Drainage canal.

St. Augustine, Fla. Record

November 29, 1938

Well-Equipped

Playground For

Negroes Sought

City Commissioners Ap-

prove Applying for

WPA Project

A playground with complete, modern facilities is in prospect for

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Atlanta City Chamber
October 30, 1938

Georgia
6

Negro Recreation Group Organizes

ATLANTA, Jan. 11 (AP) — A petition filed today in Fulton Superior court asked the incorporation of the general committee on recreation and camping for Negro youths in Georgia.

The organization is to be non-profit making and will receive gifts and endowments to be used in the building of Negro recreation centers and camps throughout the state.

The petition stated the corporation's objective as the "advancement of educational, social, physical and moral welfare of Negro youths in Georgia."

Cedartown, Ga., Standard
April 21, 1938

Funds Secured For Negro Park In Cedartown

Swimming pool and recreation-

al park for Cedartown's colored

citizens, a project that has been

underway for almost two years, be-

came a virtual certainty this week

as final pledges on the \$1,600 total

local funds were secured. Col. C.

Bunn, trustee, has notified

those who have made pledges to

send checks to F. H. Brewster,

treasurer, and final details of the

project are being completed as rap-

dily as possible.

The swimming pool and park

project has been sponsored by a

group of Negro citizens who have

already secured deeds to needed

land and who have raised a con-

siderable part of the cash sum re-

quired. The entire project will

cost approximately \$4,000 with

WPA funds available to supple-

ment the \$1,600 of local money.

Plans are to complete prelimi-

nary details and start actual work

on the project as rapidly as possi-

ble so that it may be in use this

summer.

WPA to Conduct Play Centers At Schools

Community centers will be opened in Atlanta schools and housing projects next week under the sponsorship of the Works Progress Administration Recreation Division, it was announced Saturday.

Centers will be held at Techwood and at Maddox and Joe E. Brown Junior High Schools, and James L. Key and John B. Gordon elementary schools. Negro

centers will be operated at Uni-

versity Homes, David T. Howard,

Booker T. Washington and E. P.

Johnson Schools. The centers

will be open two nights a week.

ground center beyond Central City lake front activities. It is expected that work will begin some time before spring.

Under WPA co-operative effort a community center has already been built, and has been used by different groups of girls during the summer.

Mrs. Beggs Co-Operates

Mrs. George Beggs, playground supervisor, who has been co-operating in the effort, hopes to be able to construct as many as six cabins for housing small over-night or week-end activities.

Word of approval of the project has been received from Carl Vinson, representatives from the Sixth district who announced that \$3,094 has been allotted for the work to include log cabins with wire screening, fencing, privies and appurtenance work.

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versity Homes, David T. Howard,

Booker T. Washington and E. P.

Johnson Schools. The centers

will be open two nights a week.

The following playgrounds will be open in the afternoons, under the Chickamauga reservoir area to supervision of recreation directors:

Piedmont Park, Calhoun School, Moreland School, Morningside, last week by the Tennessee Valley

Authority.

The tract is located on the south-ern shore of the proposed Chicka-mauga Lake, about eight miles from Chattanooga, near the village of Bart-lebaugh. It will be near the new parkway leading from Chattanooga

and Georgia Avenue School. The tract is located on the south-ern shore of the proposed Chicka-mauga Lake, about eight miles from Chattanooga, near the village of Bart-lebaugh. It will be near the new parkway leading from Chattanooga

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Establishment of the new park near Bartlebaugh was recommended by the E. A. Ware School, E. P. John-Hamilton county regional planning son School, South Atlanta School commission, the Chattanooga Cham- W. H. Crogman School and Uni-ber of Commerce, the Hamilton coun-ty court, and other local groups. The authority contributes the use of the land, on certain stated conditions, subject to requirements for reservoir purposes, for a fifteen-year period, the lease being automatically renew-able. TVA will also co-operate in the development of plans for the park. The Tennessee state department of conservation will assume the main-tenance.

The construction necessary to devel-opment will be done by the CCC under the supervision of the national park service. The 350-acre tract includes within its bounds two hills with an attractive cove between. It is pro-posed to provide areas for picnicking and facilities for boating and other

activities.

The playground and recreation department of the city of Macon has received authorization to build five or six log cabins on the Negro play-

CABINS PLANNED AT NEGRO CENTER

Negro Playground to Be Im- proved Under WPA Co-op- erative Program

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Parks and Play Grounds-1938

Illinois.

Appoint Firms to Design South Park Gardens CENTER PLANS TO EXPAND ACTIVITY

The Chicago Housing Authority announced this morning, the appointment of the architectural firm of Thielbar and Fugard, 520

North Michigan avenue, as the third of three firms employed to design the ten million dollar South Park Gardens Low Rent Housing Project. This firm replaces the firm of McCarthy, Smith and Appig who resigned May 24.

The firms of Shaw, Naess and Murphy, and Nimmons Carr and Wright, was appointed last January.

Frederick J. Thielbar was appointed by Mayor Kelly, in 1935, to serve as chairman of the Citizens' committee on the Revision of the Chicago Building Ordinances.

The work of this committee has been practically completed with the passage of a major part of the ordinance this summer. Mr. Thielbar is a member of the American Institute of Architects, a graduate of the University of Illinois, and was for many years with the firm of Holibird and Roche. He is a trustee of Northwestern university, and president of Wesley Memorial hospital.

John R. Fugard is former chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority, a post which he held until his resignation this spring. He was formerly president of the Metropolitan Housing Council, and has served as president of the Illinois Society of Architects. He is Regional Director of the American Institute of Architects.

The proposed ten million dollar housing project is the first to be financed in this city under the United States Housing Act, passed last summer. It is to be located between 37th and 39th streets, Cottage Grove avenue and South Parkway. It consists of approximately 1700 units, made up of row houses and apartments.

ROCKFORD (ILL.) STAR
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19 1938

Analysis Prepared By
New York Man

Plans for an expansion of recreational activity for Rockford negroes will be outlined this afternoon at a meeting of the center's advisory board with Ernest T. Attwell of New York City, field director of the bureau of colored work for the national recreation association.

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During a conference with the board of directors of the center last night, Attwell praised the local organization for its work.

"The educational values in a directed recreation program such as the Washington center promotes are of unquestionable benefit to the community," he said. "Not only is the goal better citizenship, but the center represents a symbol of inter-racial amity, and is indicative of good will toward a minority group not duplicated in any other agency."

Parks and Play Grounds-1938

Maryland.

HU Grad Named *Afro-American* Asst. in PAL

WASHINGTON

The appointment of Mrs. ~~2-5-38~~ Olga Bowers Parker as assistant to the supervisor of colored activities of the Playground Athletic League was announced this week by the PAL director.

The appointment comes in the way of a promotion to Mrs. Parker, who has been connected with the PAL as a play leader since her graduation from the physical education department of Howard University in 1932.

Mrs. Parker, who is a native of Baltimore, is the daughter of Mrs. Grace Bowers. Her new duties will consist of assisting in the supervision of the thirty-five workers now employed by the PAL, under the direction of C. C. Jackson, supervisor of colored activities.

Mrs. Parker once taught swimming at Druid Hill Park, and is the owner of a Red Cross Life Saving Badge.

Active as Student

She was very active in athletics and extra-curricula activities while a student at Howard.

She was captain of the hockey team, vice president of the Girls' Athletic Association, director of Intra-Mural Sports, and director of the Archery Club.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Mississippi.

Jackson, Miss., News
May 6, 1938

SQUARE DEAL FOR NEGROES

If and when Jackson gets a part of the administration's new spending-lending budget a goodly sum therefrom should be used for providing our negro population with a public park and recreational playgrounds.

For several years the Daily News has been persistently urging that this be done, and will continue to do so urge until the desired result is obtained.

Jackson has a splendid negro citizenry—thousands of decent, hard-working, law-abiding colored people who pay their taxes and meet all obligations of government, but this class of our population has not received the consideration it deserves in the way of recreational facilities provided for white citizens.

There is rarely a race problem of any serious nature in a community where the negro race is given a square deal.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Negro National Recreation Association.

6

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal
August 11, 1938

Is Honored



Everett Freeman, supervisor of local Negro parks and playgrounds, has been elected a national committeeman of the Negro National Recreation association. He attended the convention recently and is the only southerner on the committee. Activities at Cal Johnson park, Leslie field and of the various churches, schools and civic organizations are held under Freeman's supervision. He had special training for the work at Knoxville college.

Parks and Play Grounds-1938

Dunn, N. C. Dispatch
July 15, 1938

Asheville, N. C. Citizen
July 22, 1938

EXTEND PROGRAM WORK TO START OF RECREATION ON NEGRO PARK THIS MORNING

Negro Children of City Will Begin Participating Next Week

Carrying out plans made when the supervised program of recreation sponsored by the local American Legion Post for boys and girls of the city began June 17, under the direction of Hilton Morton, the Negro youth of the city will participate in the movement beginning Monday, according to an announcement made today.

William Lampley, Jr., will act as head counselor of the work which will be supervised by Morton, and he will be assisted by Miss Margaret Satterwhite, Grover Lee, and Harry Satterwhite.

Lampley said today that two hours in the afternoons—from four until six o'clock—will be devoted to recreation for colored children seven years old and older. Tennis, croquet, softball, and horseshoe pitching are among the games planned for their entertainment.

The schedule covers only week days and no games will be played on Saturday or Sunday.

The Negroes expressed their appreciation to Mr. Morton, the Rev. J. M. Hall, and others responsible for helping get the movement started among the colored race, and said they would appreciate the cooperation of all local citizens.

Morton reported today that a large number of boys and girls are reporting daily for the program for white children at the high school, and that a smooth working routine is being carried on.

Greensboro, N. C. News
November 1, 1938

ATTENDANCE TOTALS 147,018.

A total attendance of 147,018 negroes at events sponsored by the negro division of the local recreation commission was reported by Harry K. Parker, director of the division, in his annual report to the commission.

North Carolina.

HAMLET NEGRO CENTER

The Center of Hamlet is showing remarkable progress. Wednesday the center sponsored a baseball game having an attendance of three hundred. The First Nine of Hamlet played the Recreation Center team. The game proved to be very exciting ending with a score of 3-0 in favor of the First Nine.

Young People's night (Monday and Tuesday 7:30-9:30) is being greatly attended.

Leaders,
Annie Jackson
Mary Strong

"Philadelphia" Center

An almost one hundred percent representation of the parents and friends of the Philadelphia community joined in the gigantic festival on Aug. 23rd at the Recreational Center in that community. The affair served as a climax of the summer program depicting the types of activities carried on at the Center.

At 10:30 the group assembled for a brief song service, announcements and group games.

After which a detailed outline of the agenda for the day was given, as to the group in which each person would participate. For the children under 10, singing and active games, telling and

Those taking part in the afternoon and evening, with their subjects, included: Miss F. Smith, folk dancing; Miss McClain, rhythm bands; Dunston, puppets; R. Williams, clay modeling. A social program will be held in the evening.

A similar program will be presented each of the other two days were the choice. For those 10-18 of the conference. The final session will be held at 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

L. G. Blackus, state supervisor of WPA Negro work, will be in men and women found fun galore.

in horseshoe pitching and group

singing, Bingo and croquet, along

with the many things they

watched the little ones do.

Among the gifts of the week were a Bingo set by Miss Nannie Covington, and a very nice croquet set by the pastor of M. E. Zion church here. He has also been the donor of the money to secure a truck to clay the croquet court. The whole commun-

Durham, N. C. Morning Herald
November 4, 1938

SOUTHERN WATER SCHOOL FOR NEGROES IS PLANNED

Plans for a south-wide aquatic school for Negroes here in June are being considered. J. L. Morehead, chairman of the recreation commission, commented during last night's hearing in the city hall on a proposal to expand tennis facilities in Forest Hills.

Mr. Morehead said such a school would attract students from eight states. There is nothing like it in the south now, he said.

The matter was mentioned in passing to demonstrate some of the activities of the recreation commission and the chairman dis-

Negro Recreation Activities

Federal Project for Negro Children Rockingham-Hamlet

ROCKINGHAM NEGRO CENTER

The Negro Recreation Center of Rockingham records another week of good attendance and activities. The children seem to enjoy the games immensely. There was a "Jumping rope" contest Tuesday evening. The winners among the colored race, and said they were Dezzie Little and Wendell Hines.

The Lay Committee program rendered in the High School auditorium on Thursday morning consisted of members of the Morrisson Training School, the Negro High School, and the Supervisor of Hamlet, N. C. Musical games were given by the children of the center, which were enjoyed by all present.

We wish to solicit your attendance to our County Play Day, Saturday, September third, at the Colored High School.

Leaders,
Minnie E. Fletcher
Minnie Leak

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

North Carolina

Greensboro, N. C. Record
January 1, 1938

Area Is Designated For Negro Skaters

Due to increased interest in skating since Christmas brought forth many new pairs of skates, a special skating area for negroes had been established in front of Memorial stadium, where the negro children will be permitted to skate during the afternoons without being arrested for violation of the law.

Daniel R. Neal, city recreational director, pointed out today that it was generally observed throughout the city that many more skates were apparently distributed as Christmas gifts this season than usual.

Asheville, N. C. Citizen

February 3, 1938

CITY REQUESTED TO PUSH PLANS FOR NEGRO PARK

Welfare Council Thanks City to Dedicate Park in Council For Its Efforts

The Negro Welfare council, in a letter to City Manager P. M. Burdette, local Negro recreation park "John Highe, negro, director of the welfare council, wrote.

"We feel that the reaching of a decision on the park site will be effective in checking whatever sporadic efforts may be made in the future by groups wanting certain locations because of personal interests."

Highe enclosed letters of endorsement from the Negro Interdenominational Ministerial alliance, the negro professional group, and the negro business men.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer

March 20, 1938

City to Dedicate Park in Honor of 19th Century Slave Teacher

The City Commissioners in an official ordinance yesterday named the local Negro recreation park "John Highe, negro, director of the welfare council, wrote.

"We feel that the reaching of a decision on the park site will be effective in checking whatever sporadic efforts may be made in the future by groups wanting certain locations because of personal interests," Julius Highe, negro, director of the welfare council, wrote.

Plans Approved

The city council already has approved plans for the park and the city manager has been authorized to close the deal for the property. Lu-ther Thomas, negro, and two other Washington and Lee University members of a negro "taxpayers committee," appeared at last week's city council meeting and asked for time to prepare petitions against locating the park on Walton street. The deal has been held up in the meantime because of the illness of the city manager.

"The Negro Welfare council takes this opportunity to thank you, and the members of the city council, for

dedicated in May.

Chavis was the first known Negro slave to be educated at a Southern College, attending Liberty Hall (now to be graduated from Princeton University).

He returned to Raleigh to teach, running a day school for white youth the Rev. William Harris.

Some of his outstanding pupils

is expected to take place in May

as early as 1808. At night he taught his own race.

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Not Enough Negroes Available To Staff Colonial Park Playground

Age 2-5-38

New York, N.Y.

Says Park Commissioner Moses

some basis for your suggestion men experienced in park work tell that the benches are better the

J. E. Samuels of 300 West 153rd street is the recipient of a letter from William H. Latham, park engineer under Commissioner Robert Moses, explaining that the reason the playground in Colonial Park from 145th to 150th street is

not staffed with Negro supervisors is because "there are not enough Negro employees in the Park Department to do so."

Mr. Samuels replied that prior to the mayoralty election there was a Negro staff in charge of said playground and inquired if they were employees of the Park Department and if they were, what has become of them?

The controversy arose when Mr. Samuels wrote Commissioner Moses as follows:

"While admiring the beautiful improvement of Colonial Park, long as three rows of benches in the dance area remain as they are two flaws attracted my attention.

First, the seats on the eastern side of the dance area are facing north and south while the dance space is on the west. Had these seats been facing west not only would their occupants been ben-

ighted but there would have been cause for regret at their awkward room for two more rows of seats orientation.

Secondly, the drainage on 148th street and Bradhurst avenue is poor, for the water coming off the hill and across the park when it rains makes the western side of said avenue across the park, there could be no

doubt that the sloping of the land towards the drainage in the park is insufficient. This poor work-

a staff composed entirely of Negroes would put the finishing touch to your magnificent planning."

The Commissioner's Reply William H. Latham park engineer replied for Commissioner Moses as follows:

"The landscape design called "Is it not strange that there are for the location of the benches as they are at present. It was considered by the designers that the relation between the benches and the dance area was secondary to the present orientation of the benches, as the dance area is in the Susie-que, truck and big apple, use only occasionally in comparison with the majority of the benches. Of course, this is purely a question of judgement in design and although there is undoubtedly a question

"Prior to the mayoralty election here was a Negro staff in charge of said playground were they employees of the Park Department? And if they were, what has become of them?

"As the question before us is one of community betterment, it is immaterial to me whether the name "Negro" is written with or without a capital letter."

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Recreation Training Institute.

National Director Lectures Institute

Fourteen members of the local Negro racial group were among the more than 250 enrollees at the Recreation Training Institute held at the Church Street Methodist Episcopal Church last week.

Ernest T. Atwell, attachee of the National Recreation Association was the ~~one~~ ³¹ to address the institute. Mr. Atwell lectured to the group on Monday and Tuesday afternoon sessions. He left the city Wednesday for Peoria, Ill.

During his stay of three days in the city Mr. Atwell delivered addresses before groups at Austin High School, Knoxville College and on Tuesday evening he stressed the need of Knoxville Negroes cooperating in promoting a program of recreation in an address delivered at the Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Spartanburg S. C. Journal
May 24, 1938

\$49,000 NEGRO

PROJECT HERE IS APPROVED

Council Also Discusses New Playground for South Side

Approval of a \$49,000 WPA project, extended discussion of several other federal-aid projects, and a renewal of interest in a proposal for a playground in the southern section of the city featured the weekly session of the Spartanburg city council yesterday afternoon.

Playground Proposal

Council approved a project proposal approved by council, the city "at a reasonable price." The proposal will furnish \$1,375 in supplies and \$700 in equipment toward the total cost of the project, listed at \$49,096. Mr. Gentry said.

Work Included Action on the proposal, first offered several months ago at a council meeting, was deferred until a later meeting, when members of the council have had an opportunity to inspect the property.

Work to be done includes the grading of ground surrounding the building, laying of pipework, and the building of retaining walls. The council have had an opportunity to inspect the property.

Ask Highway Approval

A representative of the state highway department appeared at the council meeting with plans of the new Spartanburg-Greenville super-highway, asking their approval by council. The first proposal by council, sponsored by the city, called for an expenditure of \$11,822.

The extended discussion concerning other federal-aid projects hereof the work inside the city limits, was precipitated by Councilman R. T. W. Woodworth, who declined to sign the document, saying he wished to go on record as saying he wished to confer with the city engineer. Harwood Beebe, before project proposals as city-sponsored committing himself. Councilman work until officials submitted for Maddox also refused to sign the council's inspection copies of pay-document yesterday, saying he rolls on all city-sponsored projects would affix his signature this morning.

Reason For Statement His reason for such a statement Councilman John A. Wood did not sign the document yesterday, the fact that work on a city-sponsored WPA project for a softball field at Cleveland park had been halted because funds for the work had been exhausted. Before work on the softball field was started yesterday, was instructed to furnish

city council agreed to sponsor the licensed liquor dealers of the city project as the local agency, and also with a copy of a list of the brands to furnish about \$500 for the erection and quantity of liquor confiscated by city police and which is to be sold by the city.

South Carolina

At the request of Mr. Maddox Prof. D. H. Montgomery, honorary and Councilman L. T. Cothran, vice-president of the fraternity, Councilman Arthur Willis, in charge conducted the ordination ceremony of the park department, agreed to send for the following students: W. J. send a truck and convict labor to lran. A. A. Bickley, Carson D. the site to complete the project, vans, W. L. Goode, C. Raymond held for several weeks.

Mr. Maddox said he had inspected the site of the field and that he estimated a truck and about 10 men could complete the job in approximately 10 days.

To Furnish Labor

Mr. Willis said the truck and labor would be sent to the softball field as soon as they could be spared from other construction work now being carried on by the street department, and that it might be possible to comply with the request today, or at least before the end of the current week.

Council formally approved yesterday a WPA project for the construction of a Memorial park at Camp Wadsworth. It was explained that all property and material needed for the park was being supplied by Frank Hodges, local hotel operator and land owner.

Playground Proposal

The playground proposal was revised for the continuance of work opened by the appearance of Ernest on a negro recreation at Evans and Gentry and R. H. Baer, of the real Twitty street, and the beautification of the estate firm of Baer and Gentry, of grounds of the structure, who offered to sell the city a 12-

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To Sell Liquor

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Parks and Play Grounds- 1938

Tennessee

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
August 24, 1938

NEGROES' PLAYGROUNDS idleness but also keeps children off WILL CLOSE TOMORROW the streets and away from accident

Negro summer playgrounds will close tomorrow afternoon with a pageant to be given at Lincoln park at 5:30 o'clock.

Negro playgrounds and the manner in which the Negroes have availed themselves of the privileges provided

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Sleeping Beauty," "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Cinderella" will be presented by playground children the most of recreational opportunities. have been operated during the summer months under direction of the city's recreation department.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
August 27, 1938

RECREATION FACTS

In connection with the pageant staged at Lincoln Park Thursday by approximately 1,000 parents and patrons of the nine municipal playgrounds maintained in Chattanooga for Negroes there were disclosed several interesting facts of which the entire community can be proud. For one thing, it is estimated that 110,000 persons have visited the playgrounds and swimming pools since the season opened and that during the entire period there has not been a serious accident on any of the playgrounds. That is a tribute to the orderliness of the patrons and to the expert watchfulness of playground supervisors.

Scores of participants in the pageant Thursday appeared in costumes made by parents of the children and by others who worked in the various Negro neighborhoods under the direction of playground supervisors. The program and the spirit of cooperation shown by all who labored to make it a success justified the comment of J. Edward Hargraves, recreation director, that the exhibition was "the finest of its kind in the history of the city."

It is hard to imagine a more useful work than that which is done as a part of the city-wide recreational program. Organized play activities for white and Negro children fill in the Summer out-of-school season in a fashion which not only banishes

Parks and Play Grounds-1938

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal

April 12, 1938

Arranges Camp



Col. John W. Long.

NEGRO PARK PROJECT CCC CAMP APPROVED

Construction Forces To Start Moving In Today

Approval of establishment of a camp of 200 negro CCC boys to build the forest park for Shelby County negroes at the end of Mitchell Avenue on 515 acres of land purchased by the county government from Dover Barrett was obtained by Army officers yesterday.

They plan to begin moving the construction camp today, with work on the project to begin about May 1.

In view of objections raised when the negro camp was established near Collierville, Col. John W.

Long, commanding officer at Fort McClellan, came to Memphis. He found that the communities nearest the new forest park are negro. Favorable expressions were obtained from the County Court; E. W. Hale, chairman of the County Commission; Joe Boyle, city finance commissioner; Judge Sam O. Bates; O. H. Perry, chief deputy sheriff; W. Percy McDonald, county School Board chairman; Dr. Sue Powers, county school superintendent; A. G. Barnes, county school finance officer, and others.

"This is the first camp of its kind in the country, so far as I know, and we are glad to co-operate in building it," Colonel Lang said. Enrollees from Memphis can transfer to the camp from more distant camps, he said.

He was accompanied by Capt. T. C. Wesley, in charge of construction, and Capt. M. L. Patton, medical officer.

NEGRO SWIMMING POOL

To The Commercial Appeal:

We the citizens of Memphis and members of the negro race, feel that you as editor of the greatest newspaper in the South can help us.

We have before us a problem. To us it is serious. Do you know that we don't have a swimming pool?

Now we think that a city as beautiful and progressive as Memphis seems complete without one, to our visiting friends it seems very strange that a city as large and a city with so many other places of interest should be without a simple little swimming pool for negroes.

We only had one and of course you know it has been condemned as unsanitary. Don't you think the city could do something about reconditioning that one? We would do all we could to co-operate.

We feel that a swimming pool of any kind is more sanitary than a creek or other places where most of our boys go during Summer months. We feel sure it would cut the death rate of drowning. We are sure our appeal to you is not lost and we know you'll do everything to help us. Thanking you for past favors, we remain,

Respectfully yours,
CITIZENS OF MEMPHIS.

Memphis, Tenn., Scimitar
April 9, 1938

NEGROES LAUD FOREST PLANS

Letters to Commissioner Hale

Approve Proposal For

500-Acre Park

Three Memphis negro organizations today hailed establishment of a 500-acre forest recreational project in Shelby County as a "major, material contribution to the pleasure, to the improved health and to a spirit of harmony and goodwill to all the people of our country."

Community Welfare League, Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce and Memphis Branch, National Association for Advancement, sent a letter to we could to co-operate. County Commissioner E. W. Hale. We feel that a swimming pool of any kind is more sanitary than a creek or other places where most of our boys go during Summer months. We feel sure it would cut the death rate of drowning. We are sure our appeal to you is not lost and we know you'll do everything to help us. Thanking you for past favors, we remain,

Suggest Negro Board

The organizations suggested appointment of a negro advisory committee to help develop the forest unsanitary. Don't you think the city park, three and one-half miles southeast of Memphis on bluffs of

Editor's Note: The Commercial Appeal in another section today has a statement from the Park Commission explaining that efforts are being made to provide a fine pool for negroes but it could not be ready until 1939. Lack of immediate funds prevents anything being completed until that time.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
May 10, 1938

Progressive Move

"We take this occasion to express to you the sincere appreciation of thousands of colored people in Memphis and Shelby County on account of the announced purchase of a 500-acre tract of land for recreational purposes for the colored people of the Tri-States. The growth of our city and the expansion of the residential area serve to reduce the natural facilities for outdoor recreation which are so essential to the health and life of the people," the letter said.

"The fact that this tract has been secured, providing ample space and facilities for thousands at the same time, means more to us than words can express. Evidences of

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thoughtful considerations of the needs of our people have a marked influence upon the mental attitude, cultivates a spirit of goodwill and encourages a higher type of citizenship."

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
April 14, 1938

CITY TO SELL OFF LOTS, RUN STREET ON PREMISES

Old Grandstand In Pillow Park Being Razed With Good Lumber To Be Used In New Construction.

Work was started Monday by the City Park Commission under the direction of Henry Shelton, a member, on the ball park for colored people. The other members of the commission are Saul Kaplan and Howard Maxwell.

The city bought seven acres of land from W. S. Snedegar, just outside the city limits on the north side of the Iron Bridge road, for which the price was \$75 per acre or \$525 for the entire tract. The park proper will contain about five acres of the land and the balance will be sold off by the city in lots. A street will run through the property to the park.

Already, Street Superintendent Ulma Swann has a large force of hands with scrapers leveling off the diamond and otherwise getting the grounds ready. Commissioner Shelton has a force of hands tearing down the old grandstand in Pillow Park, with the good lumber from this to be used in the construction of a grandstand in the new colored ball park.

The entire cost of the park and equipment will be around \$1,000, which will include the building of the street into the property.

NEW PARK FOR NEGROES BOUGHT ON IRON BRIDGE

PARK COMMISSION ALREADY BEGUN WORK ON
SEVEN ACRES FOR
BALL PARK.

Chattanooga Dedicates New \$60,000 Swimming Pool For Negro Citizens

Seek \$150,000 Library and Cultural Center In Progress Plans—Get Approval of Interracial Group.

By JASPER T. DUNCAN

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., July 7—Friday night Negro citizens of this city saw the dream of all their years existence here, become a reality, when Commissioner of Public Utilities Robert M. Cooke, formally presented them a \$60,000 swimming pool. In their PWA and city department workmen Lincoln Park, constructed outers occupied seats on the platform of funds from the city and the form. PWA.

The 80x200-foot community adjunct was accepted in the name of the colored populace by the Rev. Jesse Belmont Barber, pastor of the Leonard Street Presbyterian church, and chairman of the colored division of the inter-racial committee.

Five thousand colored citizens gathered at the park for the ceremonies held in front of the entrance to the pool on a temporary platform constructed for the occasion.

Dr. McCallie Speaker

The main address was made by Dr. Spencer McCallie, headmaster of the McCallie School for Boys (white) who traced and praised the progress of the Negro in the past 75 years, mentioning the name of the Negro scientist, Dr. George W. Carver, of Tuskegee institute, and others of the race who have made honorable contribution in every field of human endeavor.

"Realizing his own God-given powers, the Negro asks for no subsidies, no guardianships, no special favors, but for equal and unrestricted rights to achieve equality of justice, and freedom to carve out his own destiny," he declared.

Tonight all, both white and colored, rejoice that through the energy of Commissioner Cooke and his able lieutenants one step has been taken in giving our colored citizens that to which they are justly entitled."

Commissioner Cooke, presented by Recreation Director J. Edward Hargraves, spoke briefly, stating that this was but another one of his efforts to help build a bigger, better Chattanooga.

Commissioner of Education T. H. McMillan, the only other city official present, was introduced, but did not address the audience. Several

nd playground for negroes in South Memphis has been made by the Park Commission, Mayor Overton announced today.

It will be located on a six-acre site to be selected somewhere east of Lauderdale and north of McMemore and will give Memphis negroes two modern swimming pools and recreation centers.

Washington pool for negroes in North Memphis was built in 1929 and has been repaired and reopened his summer. The city built a park and playground at Washington Park when the pool was constructed and similar facilities will be provided at the new pool.

Swings, slides, sand piles, a baseball diamond, bleachers, lighting for night activities, a field house and comfort stations will be provided. The pool will have showers, foot bath, dressing and check rooms, gathering places and a first aid room.

as proposed by Rev. Barber to the "If approval of the project is obtained," Mayor Overton said, "we

will rush construction to be ready for the next season. Swimming is the First Christian church, a member of the Interracial committee and one of the pioneers in the project for a Negro swimming pool, said: "We must stand as a unit for community development, and the will of each in respect to community development must be the will of all."

"We must have a library for Negroes that will be a cultural center. It has long been the habit and tendency of the south and this community in matters of finance and community improvements to forget the Negro. But this must not be done in the future, for what affects one affects all," he stated.

Three colored lifeguards have been employed under Butler Richardson, manager, to be on duty at the pool from 10 a. m. to 10 p. m. They are certified by the Red Cross.

Memphis, Tenn., Saturday
July 23, 1933

SIX-ACRE PARK FOR NEGROES

With Swimming Pool, Other Equipment—City to Ask \$132,000 WPA Grant

Application for a \$132,000 WPA project to build a swimming pool

Playground Director Says Pageant Finest In Chattanooga's History

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Sept. 1. (Special, by Jasper T. Duncan)—The first of a series of pageants and closing exercises by all of the playgrounds of this city was presented last Thursday at Lincoln

Park by the colored playground leaders of the nine summer playgrounds provided by the recreation department, and declared "the finest in the history of the city" by Recreation Director J. Edward Hargraves, who department head.

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" opened the program. It was presented by the Grove street and Hamilton avenue playground children. "Sleeping Beauty" was portrayed by children from the Calvin Donaldson and Chattanooga avenue school playground; "Little Red Riding Hood" was performed by Orchard Knob and Rossville playground children; and "Cinderella" was the closing number, by the Joseph E. Smith school and Lincoln park organizations.

All numbers of the pageant were performed in costumes made by patrons and parents of the children, under direction of the workers assigned in various neighborhoods.

All playground workers were guests, as were Supt. P. R. Oliatti, of parks, and Hubert C. Whitaker, workers in the recreation department, and J. Edward Hargraves, recreation director.

EXHIBITION PRAISED

Director Hargraves said the exhibition given under direction of the colored staff was "the finest program of its kind in the history of the city, and they deserve credit for the work they have done all season."

Hargraves said that an attendance total of 110,000 had been handled on the playgrounds by the nine colored workers since opening. Since the new swimming pool has been open, and a free hour and a half given playground children for swimming in

Parks and Play Grounds-1938

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
March 22, 1938

Park Planned For Negro On Lake Front

Plans were announced here Monday afternoon by Daniel T. Blaney regional director of the National Park Service, and Allison White of the Hamilton County Planning Commission for a park for Negroes on Chickamauga Lake.

The park will be developed on a tract of 300 to 500 acres of land on the lake front a short distance from the Booker T. Washington colored school and the Mount Calvary colored church.

The park will be reached by the freeway that will be built from the city to the lake. It will be about four miles from the city limits and five or six miles downstream from the Harrison Island park that will be built as a recreational spot for white people.

The work will be done by a CCC camp that is being moved from the Norris basin, Mr. Blaney said.

Memphis, Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
April 7, 1938

CCC WILL DEVELOP PARK

Federal Officials Direct Work at Negro Project Site

The 500-acre tract four miles southwest of Memphis which Shelby County recently purchased to convert into a negro recreation center will be developed by a CCC unit starting next week and be ready for use in six weeks.

Arch A. Brown, Shelby Forest project manager, announced plans following inspection of the site yesterday by Herbert Evison, of Richmond, Va., associate director of Region 1, National Park Service, and Daniel T. Blaney of Knoxville, park service inspector.

Mr. Evison authorized removal of CCC camp facilities at Carrollton, Miss., to Memphis following a conference with Commissioner Hale. Personnel for the camp will come from the Chickamauga Camp near Chattanooga. The Park Service visitors also inspected Shelby Forest and expressed satisfaction with the work accomplished there.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
June 18, 1938

NEW POOL FOR COLORED COOKE HAS NO COMMENT TO BE READY IN 10 DAYS

Lincoln park's new swimming pool for colored Chattanoogans will be ready for use within ten days, according to William Thornhill, park custodian, who said thousands of Negroes inspected the project yesterday.

The pool, a project of the department of parks and playgrounds, cost \$60,000, including PWA aid.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
July 3, 1938

NEGROES DEDICATE NEW PARK MONDAY

Rabbi Julius Mark to Speak At Douglas Grounds Services

Douglas Park, a Negro recreation center at Eighth and Fite avenues, will be dedicated with ceremonies beginning at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon, July 4.

The dedication address will be given by Rabbi Julius Mark and acceptance responses made by four Negro civic club members of that section of the city, Bert Cumby, Savella Simmons, the Rev. R. Harris and W. M. Haynes.

Ewell M. Costello, city superintendent of recreation, probably will make a short talk.

The band of the Booker T. Washington Junior High School will play. A program of play activities has been arranged. William Hill is in

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
July 11, 1938

COOKE HAS NO COMMENT POOL FEE COMPLAINT

City Commissioner R. M. Cooke, whose department built and operates the new \$60,000 swimming pool for Negroes in Lincoln park, declined last night to comment on Sunday's complaint of Dr. W. A. Thompson, Negro leader, that the pool's admission charges are too high for Negroes.

Inquiry showed that charges at the new pool for Negroes are 25 cents when the swimmer has his own bathing suit and 35 cents when a suit is rented.

These prices for adults are the same as those charged at the pool for white people in Warner park where the pool is leased to a private operator. For children the charge at Lincoln park is 10 cents. At Warner park the children's charge is 15 cents.

Commissioner Cooke also said he had nothing to say about the Negro's appeal that colored girl graduates of Howard High school be given work at the new pool.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
July 12, 1938

Public to Visit Negro Swimming Pool

Tuesday evening will be "open house night" at Lincoln Park, when white citizens of Chattanooga have been invited to be guests.

The white guests will see the new swimming pool opened recently for Negroes and other new facilities providing recreation for 30,000 colored people of Chattanooga.

A softball game between colored teams and other special attractions have been arranged.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
July 11, 1938

ATTACKS CHARGES AT NEGROES' POOL

Dr. Thompson Urges Lower Admission So That More Persons Can Swim

Dr. W. A. Thompson, Negro leader, leveled sharp criticism at the administration of the new Lincoln park swimming pool in a talk yesterday at the First Congregational church, Lindsay at Ninth.

The former colored city physician was the last of three speakers at the special service, which attracted approximately 120 of Chattanooga's leading colored citizens.

Emphasizing the fact that the pool was a community asset, and one badly needed for Negroes, the doctor

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launched an attack on the prices charged for swimming, and said, "At the prevailing charge the pool had to resolve itself into a benefit for the classes instead of the masses of the underpaid people it would serve."

Memphis, Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
July 23, 1938

A city-county mass meeting of 3000 negroes of South Memphis was held at Lincoln Park last night in church and citizens in general to protest to city officials the prices "that are too high for Negroes. Plans for the project, which range as high as 35 cents per person, and swimming pool for that section, and ask for a lower admittance fee in order that our poorer people may take advantage of this fine, wholesome recreation. The way they are going son, Rev. T. O. Fuller, Rev. H. B. Gibbons, Rev. J. A. G. Grant, George W. Lee and J. E. Walker were speaking about it now it appears as if they were trying to raise the whole \$60,000. Blair T. Hunt presided.

He called upon the men of the church and citizens in general to protest to city officials the prices "that are too high for Negroes. Plans for the project, which range as high as 35 cents per person, and swimming pool for that section, and ask for a lower admittance fee in order that our poorer people may take advantage of this fine, wholesome recreation. The way they are going son, Rev. T. O. Fuller, Rev. H. B. Gibbons, Rev. J. A. G. Grant, George W. Lee and J. E. Walker were speaking about it now it appears as if they were trying to raise the whole \$60,000. Blair T. Hunt presided.

Other speakers on the program included Dr. E. T. Fields, and a Howard High school senior, Eginous Martin. William H. Warren, president of the Men's Service club, presided.

Memphis, Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
July 24, 1938

MAYOR ASKS WPA AID FOR NEGRO PLAYSPOT

Application To Be Filed For South Memphis Project

A \$132,000 playground and swimming pool for negroes will be constructed in South Memphis, Mayor Overton announced yesterday, and an application for WPA funds for the project will be made immediately.

The playground will be a six-acre site somewhere east of Lauderdale and north of McLemore, the Mayor said. It will be modern with a lighted baseball diamond, swings, slides, sandpiles and grandstand. The pool will have dressing rooms attached.

This will be the second swimming pool for Memphis negroes. The other is at Washington Park.

Work on this project will begin immediately after funds are obtained so that it can be ready for the 1939 Summer.

Parks and Play Grounds-1938.

Richmond, Va. News-Leader
July 20, 1938

Finance Committee Favors Negro Recreation Plan

No Property Owners Protest Location of Project on Valentine Tract on Northside.

Given two public hearings without a single property owner appearing in opposition, the proposal to purchase twelve and one-half acres of the Valentine property, between old Chamberlayne Avenue and Brook Avenue for a Negro swimming pool and recreation center is on its way to Common Council with the endorsement of seven of the nine members of the Finance Committee.

The failure of opponents of the plan to appear, either before the sub-committee at the public hearing held last week or at the meeting of the full Finance Committee last night, is regarded by advocates of the project as indicating that it will receive the necessary fourteen votes when it comes before the Common Council on Aug. 1.

Alderman L. R. Brown, chairman of the sub-committee that recommended the Valentine tract after examining several other tracts, predicted the approval of the project by Common Council.

"Advocates and opponents of the site were invited to appear before the sub-committee last week and also before the Finance Committee last night, but not a single property owner voiced any objection at either meeting. In view of this I do not believe there will be more than three or four votes against the project when it comes before the Council."

Mr. Brown declared that a map prepared at his request by the Department of Public Works and laid before the Finance Committee in the executive session that followed last night's public hearing shows that the white residents nearest to the proposed recreation center and swimming pool live closer to Negro homes than they do to the proposed recreation tract. The white residences encroached on the Negro area, Mr. Brown said.

The public hearing was short. Half of the Council chamber was filled with Negroes interested in the project. Feeling that it had already heard from advocates on the sub-committee's recommendation, the committee limited the remarks of friends of the project.

Miss Claire McCarthy, director of the Community Recreation Association, was called on and introduced Mrs. James Richardson

Virginia.

Richmond, Va. News-Leader
July 23, 1938

Negro Recreation Center Objections Are Removed

Addition of 4 1/2 Acres to Proposed Tract Pleases Lee Ward Delegation.

By the addition of four and one-half acres to the tract recommended for purchase as the site for a Negro recreation center and swimming pool the City Council Finance Committee has removed the objection of several members of the Lee Ward delegation and practically assured the approval of the project by City Council.

When the committee, on motion of Alderman L. R. Brown, reconsidered its previous recommendation last night and included 4 1/2 acres that will place the swimming pool farther away from Chamberlayne Parkway, the plan won the approval of Alderman George B. Snead and Councilman E. Glenn Jordan, who previously opposed the consideration.

For A
Negro Park

From Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch

WHEN THE original proposal was made to City Council some months ago that Memorial Park be converted into a recreational center for Negroes, the Ledger Dispatch marshaled a number of reasons why it felt the plan should be supported.

The proposal has been revived by Mayor Taylor, and Council has authorized the City Manager to make a study of it. The same reasons that were advanced in favor of it before exist now, and have grown stronger.

When the 1938 budget was being made up it was revealed that the golf course in Memorial Park was losing money. The operation of the Memorial Park facilities for the benefit of comparatively few has become a financial burden upon the city. The lack of proper recreational facilities has become an increasingly heavy burden upon Norfolk's colored population.

This burden would be considerably relieved if the Memorial Park area, with necessary improvements which would not be unduly costly, were converted into a park for use by Negroes.

If, however, the Council delays the appropriation until next spring construction cannot get under way in time for it to be completed and usable next summer and it will have to go over until 1940.

The plans of the Department of Public Works call for the expenditure of approximately \$100,000 in other facilities, including the city's golf course at Ocean View.

Memorial Park is almost ideally located for a colored recreational center. It is far less appropriately located for the purpose for which it is now supposed to be used. The city here has the finest sort of opportunity to make available, without a large outlay of money, facilities for recreation which have been too long denied to the colored people of this community.

And it is earnestly hoped that the City Manager will recommend, and Council will approve, a plan to that end. It would be no more than simple justice to that large element of the city's population which has waited patiently for this

Negro Recreation Center Plans Are Progressing, Says Bolton

Plans for speedy development of the new Negro recreation center on old Chamberlayne Avenue are going forward rapidly, according to James Bolton, chief of the City Bureau of Design and Surveys.

Apart from ball fields and other facilities, Mr. Bolton said that the swimming pool being designed will be adequate to stage 60-meter races. It will be 60 feet wide and 185 feet long.

Initial construction, Mr. Bolton declared, will consist of the installation of water and sewer lines to the 17-acre tract, now in the process of acquisition by the city through its Law Department.

Cost of the whole project has been set at \$137,300, of which the Public Works Administration has agreed to put up \$52,941. Council has appropriated \$84,300 as its portion of the cost, \$63,706 of that sum to be used in construction, the remainder to provide for payment of the property being acquired.

The Board of Aldermen has been called to meet in special session tonight to concur with the lower branch in formal acceptance of the PWA grant.

Mr. Bolton was confident that the play area will be ready for activities next summer.